GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
EXTERNAL AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4637
ANSWERED ON:19.12.2001
BORDER DISPUTE WITH BANGLADESH
NARESH KUMAR PUGLIA;SHYAMA SINGH

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether his ministry have taken any concrete steps to resolve the border dispute with Bangladesh;

(b) if so, the facts thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Ministry of Home Affairs has been unable to fence the Bangladesh border; and

(d) if so, the details thereof and the steps taken to resolve the issue?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH)

(a) & (b) The Government of India is keen on an early settlement of all boundary-related matters with Bangladesh in accordance with the terms of the India-Bangladesh Land Boundary Agreement of 1974. The Governments have agreed to constitute Joint Boundary Working Groups to address all pending matters. The first meeting of the India - Bangladesh Joint Boundary Working Groups on Border Demarcation, and on Enclaves and Adversely Possessed Territories was held in Dhaka from July 2-4, 2001. In the meeting both sides presented their respective positions on these matters in order to facilitate a clear understanding of each others` points of view and to address the issues in a pragmatic and time-bound manner.

(c) & (d) The Government has taken a decision to fence the India - Bangladesh border.The length of the India-Bangladesh border fenced is 854 km and the balance 2432.8 km is scheduled to be fenced by 2006-2007.